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**From:** Nassif, Julianne (DPH)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2009 12:06 PM  
**To:** O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)  
**Subject:** FW: questions

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**From:** Pontes, Rebecca (DPH)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2009 11:25 AM  
**To:** Nassif, Julianne (DPH)  
**Subject:** RE: questions

Julie,

Here is the list of the questions and/or information one or all of us have encountered while at court that you requested. Please feel free to contact Jim or myself with any questions.

- To save valuable time for lab personnel, it should be requested that each chemist receive identification to enter court buildings without going through the lines at the metal detectors. The lines can be very long at certain times of the day.

Questions Typically Encountered: (per Amherst Lab)

- Routine questions about experience, years at the drug lab and verifying certificates of analysis.
- Explain certain wording in laboratory notes, such as what is TLTA? What does diastereomer mean?
- How are samples handled from the time they are brought in?
- What is the process of analyzing samples? How are samples weighed? What is the gross weight versus the net weight?
- What does the GC and GC/MS reports show? What are the peaks?
- Do the retention times fluctuate between samples?
- What are the purposes for these instruments? (examples being screening and confirmation).
- What is the purpose for the Microcrystalline Test, how is it performed and what does it show?
- How are samples put into the instruments? What is the basic process once the sample is injected into the instrument?
- Are there standard operating procedures for analysis? For each drug type, class?
- Questions regarding Accreditation.
- Do you test for the purity of samples? Why or why not? Are there any adulterants present? What are they and do they affect the outcome of the results?

Sincerely,

Rebecca Pontes  
Amherst Drug Laboratory

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**From:** Nassif, Julianne (DPH)  
**Sent:** Wed 7/15/2009 2:44 PM

**To:** Saunders, Della (DPH); Renczkowski, Daniel (DPH); Hanchett, James (DPH); Pontes, Rebecca (DPH)  
**Subject:** questions

Hello All,

First of all, thank you for all the excellent work that you are doing in the lab and now in the court room. Since each of you has been lucky enough to testify at trial or at a pre-trial voir dir hearing, I would like to pick your brains with the goal of developing a question & answer sheet that can be distributed among the lab staff to assist them with trial preparation.

Were there any particular questions that you were asked that caught you off guard?

Especially difficult questions?

Guidance for those yet to testify?

If you would email your responses back to me by Friday, I will try to have a draft for the chemists next week.

Thanks, Julie

*Julianne Nassif*

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